The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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PRESS CENSORSHIP ASSUMED BY JUDGE

Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 23.—Jacob Cohen, editor and publisher of the Memphis Labor Review, was fined $1,000 and sentenced to serve six months in jail by United States Judge Ross on a charge of contempt of court arising from alleged violation of his injunctions granted at the request of the 'Frisco and Illinois Central railroads.

In an article in his labor day issue Editor Cohen referred to strikebreakers as scabs. Judge Ross held that this is provocative of disorder.

Judge Ross made his decision after an hour's hearing, in which he practically declined to hear arguments. The labor editor was released on $5,000 bail and has appealed to the federal court of appeals at Cincinnati.

Later G. V. Sanders, editor of the Memphis Press, an afternoon paper, was arrested on the charge of contempt because he criticised the court for its action in the Cohen case. In the charge against Editor Sanders it is stated that his purpose was "to make fun of the court and to hold the court and its fiats up to public scorn and ridicule."

The press censorship of Judge Ross has stirred trade unionists and other citizens throughout the state.

The trades and labor council has adopted a resolution to carry the fight for free press to every section of the country.

Will Arouse People On Injunction Evil

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—The A. F. of L. executive council has opened labor's campaign "against all who prove untrue to the people's constitutional rights and who would use their positions of public trust to promote purposes foreign to and in conflict with the legitimate functions delegated to them in their representative capacity," says a statement issued by the executive council, at its quarterly meeting in this city.

"It is further proposed to institute a nation-wide campaign to bring this unconstitutional conduct of Attorney General Daugherty and Judge Wilkerson into every congressional election. Every possible effort will be made to arouse the people of America to the necessity that government by injunction must stop and that constitutional government by law must govern if we are to perpetuate our nation as a government of free people.

"The executive council is not concerned further with what Attorney General Daugherty and Judge Wilkerson may or may not do in respect to the present injunction. It considers that these men have flagrantly thrown the United States constitution to the four winds and that by this action they have demonstrated their unfitness to further trust in public office."

CLERKS HAVE DEATH BENEFIT.

Washington, Sept. 23.—Life insurance for members of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks at reasonable rates is announced by President Hyatt and Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of that organization.

All good-standing members, between the ages of 18 and 60 years, who are in good health will be insured without a medical examination. The benefit will be $500, and the cost $8 a year. The benefit applies to both male and female members. The contract is entered into with a Dayton, Ohio, life insurance company, and has been approved by the Ohio superintendent of insurance.

Satisfactory arrangements will be made to carry the benefits of members who leave the service or whose service promotions deprive them of active membership.

OPPOSE "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—The miners' and shop men's strike in Kansas prove that Governor Allen's "can't-strike" law is a failure, declared the A. F. of L. executive council at its recent meeting in this city.

These strikes, it was stated, are a direct challenge to the governor to enforce his law. The fact that he failed to do so is an admission by him that his legislative achievement is a political fraud and an economic delusion. The executive council authorized the fullest support to Kansas trade unionists in their fight to repeal that law. The Colorado law which prohibits strikes for 30 days received like attention at the hands of the executive council.

IRON WORKERS STRIKE.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 23.—A strike at the Wickwire plant, on the outskirts of this city, followed the formation of a local of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. The plant was operated on the anti-union basis when it discharged one of the employes. A committee of the men called on the management to urge reinstatement. As this procedure is against the ethics of the anti-union shop they, too, were discharged. The plant was then tied up, and the workers organized.

PLAN TO SAVE LIVES.

New York, Sept. 23.—Judge Gary, of the steel trust, is chairman of a group of business men and others who will inaugurate a safety week from October 8 to 14.

"To save a human life is worth striving for," said Chairman Gary, whose steel mills still force a large percentage of its employes to labor 12 hours a day.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Charleston, W. Va., Sept. 23.—The annual convention of the West Virginia state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning Monday, November 13.

FREE SPEECH IS "SIDE ISSUE" SAYS WALL STREET BALLYHOO

New York, Sept. 23.—Stop your silly stuff about free speech and get behind Attorney Daugherty in his attempt to smash the shop men's unions.

This is the advice given newspaper editors by the Annalist, "a magazine of finance, commerce and economics." The article has first page prominence and is written by Benjamin Baker, whose sentiments on trade unionism will never gain the ill will of Wall street.

Mr. Baker is impatient with those citizens who join with labor in protesting against the free speech prohibitions in the administration's injunction.

"Can't you see that the shop men were conspiring; that they challenged the government!" screams Mr. Baker, who insists that under the circumstances the attorney general is justified. The writer then expresses this sentiment that ought to make John Hancock turn in his grave:

"We Americans are somewhat overtender of this shibboleth of free speech."

The attorney general's tactics were bad, but his intentions were O. K., is the position of the Annalist writer, who deplores that so many people have been led away by such "side issues" (Mr. Baker's term) as denial of free speech, free press and the right of assemblage. These "side issues" are nothing as compared with the movement of commerce and (to be whispered) what some of the rail executives attempted to do to the shop men's unions.

The article is a notice to the attorney general that Wall street still loves him, even though he did make a boob play by his famous anti-union shop utterance and prohibitions, according to Mr Baker, "that were at once popularly interpreted as an attack on the American citizen's 'constitutional right' of freedom of speech."

IMPEACHMENT OF DAUGHERTY POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER

Washington, Sept. 23.—Attorney General Daugherty is so busy in Chicago trying to jail striking shop men that the house judiciary committee has postponed impeachment proceedings against him until after the fall elections. The postponement is an acknowledgment that the impeachment is full of political dynamite.

While the impeachment proceedings initiated by Congressman Keller are popularly connected with the administration's injunction against the shop men, this is but one phase of Mr. Keller's attack. This was indicated when Samuel Untermyer, New York attorney, was asked to act as counsel in the proceedings against the attorney general. Mr. Untermyer is indirectly connected with the case because of his association with the Lockwood committee's investigations of big business methods in New York state during the past two years. One of the parties associated with the building tile trust was sentenced to four months in jail, but was pardoned by the president after serving four weeks. It is charged that Mr. Daugherty was most active in securing this pardon. It is further stated that of the 20 cases which Mr. Untermyer, on behalf of the Lockwood committee, has reported to the attorney general, no action has been taken by the latter in a majority of these complaints.

These failures of the attorney general but indicate what will be brought out during the impeachment proceedings, a fact which the attorney general and his friends are fully alive to. In defense of his impeachment, Congressman Keller said:

"When an attorney general of the United States not only refuses to prosecute individuals and corporations who have done the most outrageous offenses, but also uses his high office to break down and nullify acts of congress and to invade fundamental rights, I have a right, I have a duty, as a representative in congress, to seek to restrain his illegal activities and to remove him from office by the process of impeachment, as prescribed in the constitution."

"Such brazen affrontery is almost unbelievable," declared President Gompers in a public statement on the postponement of the impeachment proceedings. "I cannot imagine why the attorney general himself does not protest against this inexcusable and wholly unnecessary delay. It can only be supposed that he does not feel confident of the outcome and that his friends at the capitol, knowing this, have delayed the proceedings.

"It will not be overlooked that elections are in November and it will not be forgotten that those who have delayed the proceedings are politicians. It is quite evident that they foresee a trial in which there would be revelations damaging to certain partisan aspirations.

"The plans of the A. F. of L. for a national demand for prosecution of the impeachment proceedings, through mass meetings in all cities, will proceed if anything with greater vigor."

MANAGERS FORCE RAILROAD STRIKE

Chicago, Sept. 23.—A general union-smashing policy, and not wage reductions, was the cause of the shop men's strike, said President Jewell of the railway employes' department, in reply to the administration's injunction. The trade unionist did not appear before Judge Wilkerson in person but his attorneys read into the record a 28-page affidavit.

The shop men's executive stated that after the railroad executives refused to accept President Harding's settlement, the workers were victims of a lockout.

The strike causes date back to 1920, according to President Jewell. At that time the labor committee of the association of railway executives, headed by President Gray of the Union Pacific railroad, adopted a report favoring the organization of regional adjustment boards. Vice President Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad presented a minority report and this was accepted by the association.

Following his defeat, President Gray resigned and T. DeWitt Cuyler, president of the executives' association, appointed Atterbury to succeed President Gray on the labor committee.

This action, continued President Jewell, is regarded by the railway employes' department as the beginning of a campaign by the executives against the railway employes' organizations.

The affidavit calls attention to the abrogation of shop rules, the violation of railroad labor board orders by the executives and the action of the Pennsylvania railroad in securing a federal injunction to prohibit the labor board from censuring it because of its refusal to permit all employes to vote on its company "union" scheme.

WANT MAYOR IMPEACHED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 23.—In its attempt to smash the Street Car Men's union the local street company wants Mayor Schwab impeached. The company secured an injunction which prohibits jitneys operating. Citizens patronize the jitneys, however, even though the drivers collect no fare. Most of the passengers tip the drivers. The company wants the mayor to enforce the injunction. Spotters are employed to check up jitney passengers, and these reports are forwarded to the mayor.

The strike has been on for several weeks. Members of a company "union" operated by the Philadelphia street car company are acting as strikebreakers.

SOME PRICES INCREASE.

Washington, Sept. 23.—The wholesale prices of fuel and lighting materials increased 6¾ per cent during August, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics. Metals and metal products advanced over 4 per cent. The two important groups of farm products and foodstuffs decreased 3 per cent, while no change was reported in the house-furnishing group.

AND IN THE SENATE, TOO.

Washington, Sept. 23.—In a speech in the senate on methods employed by Wall street, Mr. Heflin of Alabama said:

"Mr. President, I stated, and before I conclude I am going to say again, that this bunch of money bums feel like they own the government."

FEDERAL DETEC-A-TIVE MAKES BIG DISCOVERY

Chicago, Sept. 23.—Great excitement in Judge Wilkerson's court!

Burns' detective exposes secret strike order issued by the A. F. of L. railway employes' department!

The attorney general presented the secret order to the court!

Prosecution considers capture of this important document a master move that can only be equalled by arresting the parties who hit Billy Patterson and kidnapped Charley Ross!

Officers of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department never dreamed the order would fall into the hands of outsiders. But to the surprise of the unionists, Burns had a stool pigeon, called "operative," placed in one of the unions. The trade union executives are dazed at this new move. It is the first time they ever heard of it, and now fear their mail has been opened and a new invention known as a dictagraph placed in rooms where they have met.

The capture of the strike order is treated in a sensational manner by the daily press, and extra editions are being issued.

Latest—Sorrow, and gloom pervades the Daugherty squad of union smashers. Even Judge Wilkerson could not uphold the stool pigeon's affidavit when he secured a copy of the shop men's strike order. The judge ordered the affidavit thrown into the waste basket.

CAUSE OF GERMAN STRIKES.

Washington, Sept. 23.—In Commerce Reports, issued for business men by the United States department of commerce, this reason for German strikes is recorded:

"The tremendous increases in living costs, coupled with the constant apprehension of even worse increase, has caused a large number of wage controversies and strikes."

It is significant how different this German situation is treated as compared with strikes in our own country, all of which can be traced to failure to meet living costs.

HERE IS SOME NERVE!

Washington, Sept. 23—The Washington Post, recognized newspaper spokesman for the national administration, says:

"This break in the railroad deadlock, is, none the less surely because indirectly, largely the result of the Harding administration's dealing with the strike and the situation created by it.

"No matter from what angle it may be considered, the strike settlement now in progress is to be entered in the account of the administration's stewardship as a large credit."

REJECT WAGE SLASH.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—Representatives of organized pottery workers and employers in the sanitary branch have failed to reach a wage agreement. The bosses demand drastic wage cuts, which the workers refuse to accept. The contract expires November 1 next year.

RETAIL PRICES UP.

New York, Sept. 23.—Huge shipments of fruit smashed wholesale prices in this city, but these reductions have not been passed on to the consumer. Apples dropped to $2 and $2.50 per barrel of two and one-half bushels. Last year's prices ranged between $6.50 and $7.50.

CHURCH MEN DECRY INJUNCTION WRIT

New York, Sept. 23.—The administration can not sustain the shop men's injunction unless it is held that the strike is a conspiracy, and if the administration takes this view of the strike, "labor will naturally conclude that an act of congress (section 20, Clayton law) has been violated."

The above summarizes the position of the commission on the church and social service of the federal council of the churches of Christ in America in a statement on the administration's injunction.

The church men declare that the injunction has accentuated "suspense, uneasiness and discontent." It is shown that the court order does not even allow picketing recently declared justifiable by the supreme court (Granite City decision), and that "the officers of the organizations are enjoined from the performance of their duties even in the most orderly way, and from the regular use of the organization funds."

"To make use of injunctions of an extreme sort whenever a court can be found to issue them, means that commonly recognized rights may be denied without due process of law. Labor's prejudice against such action is based upon a record of undoubted injuries. The opinions of courts have been very inconsistent, carrying much uncertainty as to what is to be treated as lawful and what unlawful.

"The present situation is one of suspense, uneasiness and discontent which the issuance of this new restraining order has done much to accentuate."

Sacredness of Profit Is Taken for Granted

Des Moines, Iowa, Sept. 23.—"When our former attorney general, Mr. Havner, says the coal owners must be made good for their losses, a multitude of people will take it for granted that he is right and pay the advanced price for coal without so much as asking how it happens that the coal owners are in position to make themselves good," says the Evening Tribune in a leading editorial.

"A farmer is hit by a hail storm, but he is not able to say that he must be made good by raising the price.

"A worker is thrown out of employment all summer, but he is not able to say that his lost time must be made up to him.

"But let anything happen to steel, or oil, or coal, or California fruit, or tobacco, or sugar, or to any of a lot of the common things, and immediately everybody gets ready for higher prices.

"It is an interesting query, why we take it for granted that in one case the man must expect to pocket his loss, while in the other we actually become worried for fear the money invested in the business will not be kept good in profits."

A BEWILDERED FATHER.

Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 23—The attempt of the street car company to enforce the anti-union shop has caused a strike, and also bewilderment to H. Gravenstede, who writes the strike committee that since the jitneys have been enjoined he can not sent his 13-year-old boy to school, and if he keeps him out of school, he is fearful of being arrested by the truant officer.

CARPENTERS UNITE.

Indianapolis, Sept. 23.—The Carpenter, official magazine of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, reports the formation of locals in the following localities during the past month:

Delano and Watts, Cal.; Barnesboro, Pa.; Westwood, N. J.; Stanford, Conn.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Slaton City and Rusk, Tex.; Staugern Falls, Ontario.

Factors Responsible For Herrin Outbreak

New York, Sept. 23.—"The verdict of the coroner's jury regarding the responsibility for the death of the victims of the outbreak of popular fury at Herrin, Ill., has shocked the editors of the metropolitan dailies, but none of these papers explain why the farmers and merchants of that community should be willing to side with the miners against the mine owners," says Truth, a magazine published by the International Catholic truth society.

This magazine calls attention to the overt acts of the guards, "such as stopping citizens using the public highway, which passes along the mine property.

"The scab," says Truth, "is simply a tool, and usually a rather inefficient and unworthy tool, used only for the purpose of forcing a surrender, then to be discarded as useless.

"All accounts from Herrin claim that the mine guards lived up to the reputation this type or hirelings has established for itself. There seems to be no doubt that a young Lithuanian miner was shot to death on approaching the mine property many hours before the attack on the strikebreakers and their guards began. What followed is inexcusable; but part of the responsibility rests with those who have permitted capital and labor to carry on their warfare in modern society without regard for justice and charity, for the welfare of the individuals participating, or for the common good.

"The means used by a corporation attempting to overcome the resistance of striking or locked-out working men may seem more human and legal, but in reality they are no less immoral than the feuds of the barons of the middle ages. The question of justice and charity is not considered; the decision is to be brought about by might.

"That is exactly what the owners of the mines in Herrin attempted to do; had they succeeded, the miners would have been forced to either surrender and accept the wages and conditions the mine owners were willing to concede, or leave their homes, in an attempt to find work in some other locality. The impression created by the wilful slaying of one of their number, together with the realization that the very foundation of their economic existence was threatened, so completely took hold of these people that they permitted themselves to be carried away by the mob spirit which led them to commit atrocious deeds of violence.

"Knowing of all the conditions surrounding and leading to this catastrophe, the citizens of Williamson county are inclined to sympathize with the miners, and to condone the crimes of those who participated in the riot. The metropolitan press, so loud in its denunciation of the mob and the coroner's jury, which would not fix the guilt on the miners, on the other hand is wrong in putting all the blame on the miners and citizens of Herrin without taking into consideration at all the provocation so flauntingly thrown into the face of the entire community. It lays too much stress upon the right of property, i. e., of the mine owners to operate their mines according to their own sweet will in an absolutistic manner, which can only be based on a pagan conception of property rights.

"It will be impossible to bring about harmony between what is termed capital and labor as long as this principle prevails. What we need is a general acceptance of a higher regard for the human element. In other words we must get away from the idea that strikes or lockouts may be broken by means incompatible with justice.

"If we do not strive for this end, such sad affairs as the Herrin riot will become more frequent, not alone because the masses are becoming embittered, but because they consider themselves justified in meeting the insidious power of capital with the chief means at their command, armed resistance and violence."

DOES U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL IMAGINE HE IS GOVERNMENT?

Washington, Sept. 23.—"Mr. Gompers has criticised the government," said Attorney General Daugherty in one of his numerous attempted alibis for his injunction and anti-union expressions before Judge Wilkerson.

The attorney general's statement can not be sustained by the record.

President Gompers has not criticised the government. He has, however, taken sharp issue with lobbyists and secret agents for big business who are so often placed in political office and who then imagine they are the government.

To criticize any office holder is a far different proposition from criticising this government, "of, by and for the people."

Mr. Daugherty is not the government. His office is one of the divisions of the executive branch of the government, which consists of two other branches—lawmaking and judiciary.

Jurisdiction Strikes No Part of Union Code

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—In directing that a conference be called to consider jurisdictional differences between carpenters and sheet metal workers, the A. F. of L. executive council deplored the several strikes that have resulted over this situation. In emphasizing the fact that the policy of the A. F. of L. in jurisdictional disputes has been conciliatory, rather than forceful, the executive council said:

"A careful review and analysis of all decisions and actions by the A. F. of L. clearly show that the A. F. of L. has never approved or indorsed compulsory arbitration in any matter affecting the relations of workers and employers, or in any manner affecting the relations between organizations of labor; that where agreements upon jurisdiction or decisions relating to jurisdictional claims have been questioned or disregarded by affiliated international unions, the severest penalty ever imposed by the A. F. of L. has been the suspension of such organizations from membership until such time as they might adhere to the agreements reached or decisions made, but that the A. F. of L. at no time encouraged, authorized, approved or countenanced a strike on the part of any of its affiliated local or international unions for the purpose of enforcing such agreements or decisions upon an unwilling organization.

"There is no power in the A. F. of L. to order or to support a strike for the enforcement of jurisdictional decisions or awards, and surely the power never vested in the A. F. of L. itself cannot be exercised, delegated to or even countenanced when exercised by any subordinate body of the A. F. of L.

"The executive council, therefore, calls upon the building trades department to carry into effect the fundamental facts and principles herein declared, and at once to convey the above to the building trades councils affiliated to the department, and particularly that strikes of union workmen against other union workmen are intolerable and must be instantly discontinued. In so doing the executive council is prompted not only by the desire to assure the fulfillment of the guarantees of trade autonomy and limited delegated authority granted to the A. F. of L. and its subordinate departments by its affiliated international unions, but is moved also to this end by a spirit which seeks to avoid the deplorable and untenable position of having union men and trade union organizations striking against one another. The council is further moved by the desire to create a state of mind that will permit it to prove helpful in effecting an adjustment of the original controversy underlying the present unfortunate state of affairs prevailing among the building trades unions."

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW URGED IN CONGRESS

Washington, Sept. 23.—Congressman Hoch of Kansas wants a national law based on the Allen idea, and has camouflaged his plan with the usual declaration that an individual worker has the right to quit his employment, but it shall be unlawful for a number of railroad employes to "conspire together" for the purpose of forcing railroads to terms in any dispute.

The railroad labor board is to be abolished and the president will appoint five persons, each for a term of 10 years. Only the president can remove these officials. Unions that incorporate will have a standing before this board. Unions that are not incorporated must secure the individual signatures of members authorizing their representatives to speak for them before the board.

As in the law creating the railroad labor board, no provision is made for a living wage. Instead, it is provided that railroad employes "shall be paid a just and reasonable wage." The railroad labor board has ruled that a "just and reasonable wage" does not mean a living wage. The fact that the identical term is used in Congressman Hoch's proposal is significant and sinister.

Any one who violates any portion of the act as proposed by Congressman Hoch shall be guilty of an offense and upon conviction shall be fined not more than $1,000 or be imprisoned not more than one year.

OFFICIALS RE-ELECTED.

Fall River, Mass., Sept. 23.—President McMahon and Secretary-Treasurer Conboy were re-elected by the convention of the United Textile Workers of America.

President McMahon reminded delegates that this country is the only nation that today permits women and children to be forced to labor 54 hours a week in many cases and often as long as 60 hours.

Woman Confesses Eastern "Frame Up"

Boston, Sept. 23.—A woman, star witness for the prosecution in the trial of Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, has confessed that her identification of the accused "was in its entirety unqualifiedly false and untrue" and that when she made this perjured testimony she was "under the intimidating and coercing influence" of police officers and the district attorney.

The two men are charged with murdering a factory paymaster and his guard at South Braintree on April 15, 1920. Only recently Mrs. Henry Dodson stated in her plea for a divorce that her husband, who is now in the penitentiary for automobile theft, told her he drove the automobile when the paymaster was killed and that Sacco and Vanzetti had nothing to do with the murder.

At the last A. F. of L. convention a resolution for a new trial for the two men was unanimously adopted. The resolution calls attention to the fact that nine persons testified on behalf of Sacco that he was in Boston, 13 miles from the scene of the crime, and of these three based their testimony on documentary evidence. Eleven persons testified that Vanzetti was in Plymouth, 25 miles from the scene of the crime. Not a single effort has been made to impeach the testimony of any one of these 20 persons.

COAL PRICE IS OUTRAGE.

Washington, Sept. 23.—The present price of bituminous coal is declared "an outrage on the American public" by Secretary of Commerce Hoover.

The cabinet official does not agree with newspaper editors and other amateur economists who lecture miners on the vast amount of wages they have lost because of their strike.

"The estimate of miners' wages lost in the five months is not a correct basis of estimation because over a period of 18 months we will probably consume approximately the same amount of coal," said Secretary Hoover. "In other words, the miners will work more days in the week, and produce more coal in the next six or eight months than they would have produced if there had been no strike, and thus the wage roll of the next six or eight months will be larger and will, in a considerable degree, compensate the loss during the suspension."

WILD CLAIMS DENIED.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—Attorney General Daugherty's claims of violence on the part of shop men is denied by these workers.

"Many of the affidavits tend to show that engines were damaged and wrecks narrowly averted, and that the lives of union engineers and firemen were endangered by the acts of union shop strikers," said Frank L. Mulholland, one of the attorneys for the shop men. "If this is true, do you suppose the engineer and firemen brotherhoods would have attorneys here helping the shop men who conspired to murder them?"

ANTI-UNION, AS USUAL.

Pueblo, Col., Sept. 23.—The Colorado fuel and iron company, a Rockefeller unit, refuses to confer with its organized miners, who have been on strike since last April. Several mine owners have reached an agreement with the miners on the basis of the bituminous settlement at Cleveland, but the Rockefeller concern leads in opposition to this course. Colorado fuel and iron was the first concern in this section of the country to form a company "union." The policy of the Rockefeller company has made possible the continued idleness of 7,000 men.

OPPOSE MINERS' TRIALS.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—The alleged "treason" trials of miners at Charles Town, W. Va., is part of the coal owners' attempt to destroy trade unionism, declared the A. F. of L. executive council at its sessions in this city.

It was shown that the special prosecutors brought into this case are notorious coal owners' advocates.

CONSTITUTION WRECKERS AROUSE LIBERTY LOVERS

Mass Meetings Directed by Organized Labor Will Protest Government by Injunction

Washington, Sept. 23.—The A. F. of L. executive council has issued a call to all organized labor and sympathizing freedom-loving citizens to hold mass meetings on Sunday, October 1, 1922, in protest against the Daugherty injunction, which is declared "a most flagrant violation of the constitution of the United States and of the laws enacted by our congress. No one, apparently, is free from its sweeping provisions. It prohibits the freedom of speech, the freedom of press and the right of the people peaceably to assemble to discuss their grievances."

The attorney general based his claim for the injunction on the ground that the shop men refused to accept decisions by the railroad labor board, and he stated that he would use the power of government to maintain the anti-union shop.

The executive council declares that the shop men have the right to reject decisions by the labor board and that the attorney general "violated the law by using the funds appropriated by congress in the prosecution of individuals and organizations under the anti-trust act. The law appropriating funds for the department of justice prohibits their use in the prosecution of labor or farm organizations, under the anti-trust laws of the United States.

"These facts make it imperative for the people to raise their voices in earnest and emphatic protest against government by injunction.

"It is urged that you make immediate preparation for the holding of the mass meeting on Sunday, October 1, 1922; that you solicit and obtain the co-operation of the farmers, both as organizations and as individuals, and sympathetic, freedom-loving citizens of your community."

The executive council also urges that the mass meetings adopt suitable resolutions and that copies of same be forwarded to their respective congressmen at Washington and to A. F. of L. headquarters.

GIVE MINERS CREDIT, NOT POLITICIANS

Washington, Sept. 23.—The end of the anthracite coal strike is a victory for these workers, declared President Gompers, who indicated that labor will give little attention to the claims of politicians who seek credit for the settlement.

"The anthracite strike, which ended in such a glorious victory for the miners, is just another example of the power of coal owners to exploit the public and commercialize the suffering of their employes by forcing them into idleness," said President Gompers.

"Why didn't the mine owners come to the same terms last spring?

"First—Because they wanted to dispose of surplus stocks.

"Second—They saw a chance to rob the public by profiteering.

"Third—They hoped for violence by the men in order to arouse public resentment and government action, weaken the spirit and morale of the men and destroy the unions.

"As a matter of fact the mine owners had everything to gain and nothing to lose, realizing, as they did, that the miners were, and always would be, ready and willing to come to honest terms.

"One hundred and fifty-five thousand working men in a mass, hungered and sorely provoked for five months, so conducted themselves that not a single arrest was made, and they bore the sacrifices and hardships with such a spirit of solidarity and determination that to them should be given all the credit for victory, rather than to those seeking political capital."

DISCARD AFFIDAVITS.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—Attorneys for the shop men forced Judge Wilkerson to thrown out of court 283 affidavits that were part of the attorney general's testimony to support his injunction.

Judge Wilkerson could adopt no other policy, because the shop men's attorneys showed him that these affidavits failed to include the usual averment that the affiant knew it was to be used in court. The failure to include this statement would make it impossible for the persons making the affidavits to be punished for perjury in the event their affidavits were proven false.

The faulty affidavits show how stool pigeons were to be protected after their testimony was used to develop public opinion against the shop men and justify the administration's injunction.

The vigilance of the shop men's attorneys, however, blocked the game of the attorney general, who is either incompetent or is a party to a move that would shield the stool pigeons, spies and detectives employed by the department of justice, and who operate under the direction of the "great detective," Burns.

CAN'T EXCEED AUTHORITY.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—The trade union movement has never empowered or authorized officers of the American Federation of Labor to call a general strike, declared the A. F. of L. executive council which repeats numerous statements to this effect, and which are just as often ignored by persons who periodically insist that the A. F. of L. call such a strike.

The executive council stated that it nor any officer of the A. F. of L. "has either the right or power to call or advise a general strike."

The executive council took occasion to again notify the shop men that every assistance within its power will be accorded them so they may succeed in their contest with the railroad executives.

COULDN'T FIND JEWELL.

Chicago, Sept. 23.—It is now known that while deputy marshals were seeking President Jewell of the railway employes' department, to serve him with a copy of the administration's injunction, the trade unionist was holding quiet conferences in Baltimore with railroad officials.

The deputy marshals and the sensational press were sure that President Jewell was "evading service," and that he intended to direct the strike from his hiding place.

ANY EXCUSE GOES.

New York, Sept. 23.—In a speech before business men of this city Senator Calder said he opposed subsidies on principle, but—

He would favor the ship subsidy bill "because it is the sole solution of a perplexing problem."

BIG PROFITS IN MATCHES.

New York, Sept 23.—The Diamond match company reports that clear profits for the past six months totaled $1,444,884, after depreciation and other charges were met.

SUPREME COURT CURB IS PLANNED BY LABOR

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—A movement to "return to congress the full law-making powers with which it was endowed by the framers of the constitution," was launched by the A. F. of L. executive council at its meeting in this city.

In announcing its purpose to urge a constitutional amendment by which congress may strike at the authority of the supreme court by re-enacting any law the court declares unconstitutional, the executive council said:

"Every great advocate of democracy has feared the encroachment of the courts. By a gradual process an intolerable condition has developed. The congress is no longer the final authority of legislation. The supreme court is the final authority, and five men, a bare majority, determine the issue.

"We are governed by an arbitrary, autocratic bureaucracy of five. This is an abject surrender of constitutional authority, which betrays the purpose and the clearly stated intent of the founders and makers of America today. We are little less than an autocratically ruled nation."

The amendment will be introduced in congress at the earliest possible moment, and its adoption will be one of the political aims of organized labor throughout the country.

FORCED OUT IN OPEN.

New York, Sept. 23.—Organized labor's opposition to Governor Miller has driven that official out in the open, and he is now telling citizens of this state what should be done to strikers.

The governor wants every one to know that he believes in individual liberty and the right of the individual to quit his job, but the governor is 'agin a group of individuals exercising that right.

This system of reasoning was referred to by the Montana supreme court:

"There can be found running through our legal literature many remarkable statements that an act perfectly lawful when done by one person becomes, by some sort of legerdemain, criminal, when done by two or more persons acting in concert and this upon the theory that the concerted action amounts to a conspiracy. But with this doctrine we cannot agree. If an individual is clothed with a right when acting alone he does not lose such right merely by acting with others, each of whom is clothed with the same right."

WILL HAVE LEGAL BUREAU.

Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 23.—A legal information bureau is to be included in the A. F. of L. executive council's fight for just treatment of workers by the courts.

"It is not intended that this bureau shall furnish legal counsellors," the council's statement said. "It is the purpose of the bureau to collect and collate all judicial decisions of the courts involving the rights and operations of labor, and to offer such advice to labor as will result in overcoming the mass of precedents courts have been establishing from time to time by judicial interpretations and constructions and by legal fictions."

200 PER CENT DIVIDEND.

New York, Sept. 23.—The Gulf oil corporation announces that it will distribute a 200 per cent stock dividend as part of a plan for "readjusting its capitalization."

This means that instead of giving stockholders 200 per cent profit, new stock will be issued which will increase the capitalization from $36,000,000 to $120,000,000. Then, if objections is made to the high price of oil in the future the company can claim that its profits only provide a "fair return" for its capitalization.

FEDERAL EMPLOYES ELECT.

New York, Sept. 23.—The sixth annual convention of the National Federation of Federal Employes re-elected President Steward.

MORE JUDGES CREATED.

Washington, Sept. 23.—President Harding has signed a bill passed by congress creating 24 new federal district court judges.